

SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Annual Report

2008-2009

I. Board Mission

II. Board Information

III. Board Committee Reports

--Commercial and Economic Development

--Neighborhoods

--Transportation and Pedestrian Safety

I. Mission

It is the mission of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board to work as a collegial unit to develop strong community leadership and organization, and to invest its best efforts to ensure that the Silver Spring Region is a livable and vibrant community where housing, employment, schools, community organizations, parks and community services are located together, flourish in a safe and hospitable environment, and are conveniently accessible by appropriate and environmentally friendly modes of transportation.

The Board advises the County Executive and the County Council, and other appropriate governmental bodies, when and where appropriate on policies and programs, proposing solutions to problems and recommending actions. As it pursues this mission, it works with and consults the Director of the Silver Spring Regional Service Center and other county governmental officials.

II. Board Information

The Board has 18 members and has three standing committees:

- Commercial and Economic Development
- Neighborhoods
- Transportation and Pedestrian Safety

The Board had two other working groups: a strategic planning group and an outreach working group. A strategic plan (Fall 2008) was adopted. The outreach working group developed a brochure to share with community members, developed a plan to visit specific community groups and advised Regional Center staff on website improvements to facilitate community interaction with the board.

A list of current Board Members is located at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/Content/RSC/SilSprng/BoardsCommittees/citizenadvisoryboard.asp> . Additionally, at that same website, minutes of past board meetings, information about the committee meeting (times and locations), and other Board information is listed and is updated regularly.

2008-2009 Members

Darian Unger, Chair	Silver Spring Park/East Silver Spring Fenton Village
Kathy Stevens, Exec. Vice Chair	East Silver Spring
Deborah Linn, Parliamentary Vice Chair	Sligo Branview
Mary Pat Spon, Secretary	South Four Corners
Casey Anderson	Woodside
Alan Bowser	Sligo Hills
Cassandra Ford	Takoma Park
Evan Glass	South Silver Spring
Tiffany Graham-Golden	Downtown Silver Spring
Lucinda Lessley	Summit Hills
Megan Moriarty	Downtown Silver Spring
Fran Rothstein	Sligo Park Hills/Takoma Park
Philip Olivetti	Linden/Montgomery Hills
Marilyn Seitz	Woodside Park
Deborah Spielberg	Park Hills
Mitchell Warren	East Silver Spring
Constance Wynn	South Four Corners
Victor Weissberg	Woodside

Most of the Board's work occurs in the committee meetings where there is an opportunity for dialogue and participation from Board members, community members and other invited guests. The work of the committees is summarized in Section III.

A few highlights of actions and other efforts by the Board are listed here:

- Created opportunities to learn about the proposed Purple Line plans, hosted dialogue sessions and supported community involvement in providing input to the Maryland Transit Authority. In January 2009 the Board supported the light rail plan option. Currently, the light rail plan has been selected by Governor O'Malley.
- Provided testimony to County Council on a variety of issues. Notably, provided testimony regarding capital projects such as, The Silver Spring/Sarbanes Transit Center, Civic Building and Veterans Plaza, advocating for full funding for these projects. Also provided input on operating budget priorities to the County Executive and County Council.

- Urged increased community involvement in planning for the new Silver Spring Library and participated in community discussions around space and design planning, including discussions around the proposed skywalk. The Board favored a safe street level crossing and communicated to the County Executive and County Council via letter and testimony about these positions. The size of library was increased and the plan is in place to better meet the needs of the Silver Spring Community.
- Co-Sponsored the Safe Silver Spring Summit with Prezco and other Silver Spring groups.
- Opposed proposed elimination of the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee and the Transportation Management District Advisory Committee.
- Advocating for increased funding for comprehensive approach to safety and traffic improvements on Dale Drive.
- Advocating for increased funding for planning and construction of the Metropolitan Branch Trail.
- Opposed ambulance fee legislation.
- Supported inclusion of youth programs in the county operating budget and for Mixed Unity's efforts.
- Supported dedicated funding for pedestrian safety initiative using speed camera revenue.
- Discussed and communicated with the Silver Spring Historical Society our concerns that historical plaques in downtown Silver Spring represent the diversity that makes up the Silver Spring population and objected to the early plans that did not include African Americans.

Commercial and Economic Development Committee/CED (Chair: Philip Olivetti)

The committee focuses on commercial and economic development issues that have an impact on creating a vibrant urban Silver Spring community. This includes the renewal and rebuilding of the region's commercial centers, plans and actions of the region's stakeholders, extension of revitalization of the Silver Spring Central Business District and other commercial centers, outreach, building partnerships, communication and marketing the services and facilities of the region's commercial centers. We also focus on sectional maps, master plans, the physical infrastructure, intelligent land use, demystifying zoning and quality of life issues.

The CED meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Silver Spring Regional Center, 8435 Georgia Avenue 1st floor conference room. **Committee Members:** Philip L. Olivetti, Chair and Cris Bombaugh, Co-Chair, Marilyn Seitz, Evan Glass, Darien Unger, Debbie Spielberg, Tiffany Graham, Debbie Linn, Constance Lynn, Mitch Warren, Gary Stith, Mel Tull, Roylene Roberts, Henry Odham, Mark Bombaugh, Ben Stutz, Marcie Stickle, Jon Landis, Jon Laurie, Bob Colvin, Jennifer Nettles, Laurie Yankowski, Jane Holmes, Mary Reardon, Vicky Addai, Coleen Mitchell, George Neighbors, George French, Karen Roper, David Auerbach

Topics/ Issues / Projects area addressed in 2008/2009

- The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board designated Fenton Village as one of its top priorities. In keeping with this, the CED devoted a substantial amount of committee meeting time to a discussion of Fenton Village. Also the CED Committee sponsored several public forums bringing representatives of the community, government and developers together to proactively address concerns and challenges in Fenton Village. Topics included zoning, proposed developments, vision setting, obstacles to achieving visions, etc.
- Proposed Studio Plaza project ([Thayer Avenue, Fenton Street, Silver Spring Avenue and Georgia Avenue](#), including the current County Parking Lot 3) -the five-acre site would contain over 620,000 square feet of “residential, retail, office, and/or hotel uses” in four high-rise buildings.
- Streetscape improvements planned for east side of Georgia Avenue starting at Wayne to Thayer Avenues.
- Proposed Silver Spring Library (Fenton and Bonifant Streets) – funding, community needs assessment, design, size, impact of the proposed Purple Line alignment, traffic, parking and access issues.
- Civic Building and Veterans Plaza – status updates on construction.

- Proposed Zoning Text Amendment which would remove developers' disincentives to build street level retail.
- Proposed Zoning Text Amendment which would permit pooling public amenities funds
- Minimizing small business displacement in Silver Spring
- The "buy local" campaign in Silver Spring
- Proposed Falkland properties development – discussions included historical significance of Falkland Chase apartment complex, traffic issues associated with the proposed development and issues about the appropriateness of the proposed public space amenities.
- Music Hall (Fillmore) project included discussions with government officials, Lee Development, Live Nation and the community. Concerns raised were safety, funding, traffic and community use.
- South Silver Spring Challenges and Opportunities and concerns that the area was not receiving increased priorities by the county government.
- United Therapeutics Laboratory on Spring and Cameron Avenues. Building number two would house the company's medical testing laboratories and would have 5,000 sq. ft. of first floor retail space. The public amenities segment would consist of a 9 ft x 32 ft screen which will constantly be projecting science themes of nature and art.
- Review crime activity in the Silver Spring Commercial Business District, preventative measures, and the use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Designs (CPTED) which will enhance natural, organizational and mechanical surveillance.
- Discussion of a Zoning Text Amendment in Fenton Village Overlay Zone would allow an additional height bonus for residential construction but only as necessary for Workforce Housing
- Historic Markers - as part of the agreement for removal of the Armory, \$60,000 was appropriated to install historic markers to provide information for a self guided walking tour in the CBD area.
- Slide presentation of historic Georgia Ave buildings.
- Zoning Text Amendment which would make it possible in optional method developments to pool amenities thereby making for larger green spaces or public amenity spaces
- MC Park and Planning plan for "green space" in the Silver Spring CBD
- Proposed Silver Place development to replace MNCPPC current headquarters - 135,500 square foot offices, over 300 housing units with underground parking, and a village green.
- Proposed Zoning Text Amendment "Arts and Entertainment Amenity Banking" which would provide developers with additional density in return for building public amenities prior to the development itself.
- Supplemental appropriations to fund the Sarbanes Transit Center and Civic Building.

Neighborhoods Committee (Chairs: Megan Moriarty and Alan Bowser)

Since November 2008, the Neighborhoods Committee has worked to involve a wider group of residents in community conversations by:

- Holding meetings in partnership with the Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee –
 - Jeff Dunckel from the Department of Transportation responded to specific resident concerns from South Silver Spring and explained the scope of the County's Pedestrian Safety Campaign noting that the first area being targeted is the intersection of Piney Branch and University. Bill Smith described his sidewalk mapping project for East Silver Spring, which is available at: www.montgomerysideways.com
 - Dean Teague, Vice President for Ancillary/Support Services at Washington Adventist Hospital, presented the plan to create a Village of Health and Wellbeing at the current hospital site in Takoma Park once the new facility in White Oak opens.
- Addressing public safety concerns – provided the community timely updates in the aftermath of Tai Lam's murder. A number of Committee members planned and participated in two events: the Youth Action Planning Meeting and the Safer Silver Spring Summit. The Committee supported the Mixed Unity Concert.
- Supporting community members that participated in Silver Spring Action and the Youth Action Planning meeting who connected over common concerns, such as assisting small business owners and integrating youth voices into the Committee.
- Discussing ways to connect renters and homeowners – which led to discussions about how renters can connect to each other and new connections among renters attending the Committee meetings for the first time.
- Envisioning the future of Fenton Village – the Committee collaborated with the Commercial and Economic Development Committee to hold the second Fenton Village Forum in May, where over 40 neighbors came together to discuss their visions and hopes for this unique part of Silver Spring.
- Tracking the progress of the Weed and Seed project in the Northwest Park-Oakview neighborhoods.

Committee participants included:

Alan Bowser, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board (SSCAB)

Dwayne Jenkins, Silver Spring Regional Services Center

Mark Woodard, SSCAB

Kathy Stevens, SSCAB

Megan Moriarty, committee chair, SSCAB
Anita Morrison, co-chair
Darian Unger, SSCAB
Evan Glass, SSCAB
Mary Reardon, Silver Spring Historical Society
Clarence Steinberg, Indian Spring Civic Association
Martha Waddy, New Hampshire Estates Civic Association
Jon Elkind, Silver Spring Advocates
Susanna Shapiro
Bruce Baker, SS/TP Community Indicators
Massiel Cruz, Northwest Park Apartments, Neighborhood IMPACT
Sgt. Tom Harmon, MCPD
Jason Tomassini, The Gazette
Lianna Levine Reisner, IMPACT Silver Spring
Monica Buitrago, IMPACT Silver Spring
Kyja Wilburn, Tanglewood Apts, Neighborhood IMPACT
Ana Puentes, Montgomery Towers, Neighborhood IMPACT
Sally Gagne, Friends of Sligo Creek
Lisa Dubay
Webb Smedley, Woodside Park Civic Association;
Loetta Vann, Woodside Forest Civic Association, Committee to Save the Watson House
Lt. Paul Liquorie, MCPD
Lt. Eric Burnett, MCPD
Jennifer Nettles, Peterson Management
Tony Hausner, Prezco
Luther Hinsley, Avery Park Community Association
Harry Sanders
Caren Madsen
Barbara Ditzler
Jennifer Deseo, Silver Spring Penguin
Rukiyat Gilbert, Southern Management
Kevin Walling
Rodney Elin, Eastern Village
Barbara Sanders
Bruce Clark, Advance Church
William Smith
Jim Zepp
Maura Lynch, State's Attorney's Office
Kusum Purohit; Gandhi Brigade
Alev Akbulut
Marcie Stickle
Victor Salazar, Weed & Seed
Navid Nasr, Hillwood Manor Apartments, Neighborhood IMPACT

Transportation and Pedestrian Committee (Chair: Darian Unger)

The Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee continued its mission of soliciting residents' opinions and concerns, investigating local problems, and advocating for fixes, solutions, and changes that would improve safety in Silver Spring.

Key actions included:

- Regularly meeting with police to
 - review vehicle and pedestrian accident data
 - apply lessons and make recommendations for improved enforcement and design
- Researching and voicing community sentiment about legislation including
 - Funding for essential elements of the new Silver Spring Transit Center (advocated for the addition of \$20 million)
 - Using speed camera revenue to provide dedicated funding for the pedestrian safety initiative (supported legislation)
 - Maintaining voices and funding for the Silver Spring Urban District Committee and Transportation Management Committee (opposed legislation)
 - Funding the Silver Spring Parking Lot District (opposed legislation that would reallocate funds)
 - Sidewalk paving and safety
 - The proposed pedestrian skywalk across Wayne Ave. (opposed legislation to weaken the Silver Spring urban renewal plan)
- Advocating for the department of transportation to
 - Improve pedestrian safety in Silver Spring
 - Better plan and improve Silver Spring bike paths
 - Implement a resident-friendly car-sharing program for the CBD and surrounding community
 - Make decisionmaking transparent and inclusive of community input
 - Implement holistic transportation management to better account for growth near transit hubs
- Facilitating
 - A pedestrian road safety audit on Georgia Ave.
 - Community input to local planners and law enforcement officers

Participants in the Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee meetings, 2008-2009

Advisory Board Members: Darian Unger (chair), Evan Glass, Fran Rothstein, Casey Anderson, Constance Wynn, Vic Weissberg, Megan Moriarty, Marilyn Seitz, Kathy Stevens, Philip Olivetti, Joshua Moses

Silver Spring Community Members: Jane Gorbaty, Harry Sanders, Barbara Sanders, Jon Elkind, Ed King, Joan King, Fred Lees, Brett Roullier, Karen Roper, Chuck Kines, Jennifer Nettles, Webb Smedley, Nancy Nickell, Bruce Clark, William Smith, Jim Zepp, Kevin Walling, Massiel Cruz, Rodney Elin, Luthor Hinsley, Barbara Ditzler, Michael Petty, Erwin Mack, Bob Colvin, Bruce Altevogt, William Smith, Wayne Christiansen, Bruce Johnston, Wayne Phyllaier, Nancy Nickell, Jaclyn Martin, Chris Gillis, Dan Sheridan, Susan Andrea, John Martin

County Employees or Representatives: Jeff Dunkel, Sandra Brecher, Sgt. Tom Harmon, Gary Stith, Mark Sofman, Patricia Shepard, Mel Tull, Roylene, Roberts, Steve Nash, Dale Tibbetts, Gail Tait-Nouri, Wayne Christiansen, Fred Lees

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